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CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

Volume 60 December 2014 Number 6

Outstanding Birds Expected!
CBC Winter Meeting - January 30-31

Ron Clark

Our winter meeting, January 30-31, will make a return to Nags Head on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Our last two meetings to the Outer Banks netted 177 and 186 species respectively, and we would like to surpass both of those numbers come January! Species totals last time included twenty-three ducks, eighteen shorebirds, fifteen sparrows, seven warblers and six rails. There's always a chance for rare birds like Glaucous and Iceland Gulls, Rough-legged Hawk, Golden Eagle, Common Redpoll and Ash-throated Flycatcher. A Band-tailed Pigeon was seen by many in Manteo last winter. What might show up next? The only way to find out is to join us!

Our headquarters will be the recently refurbished Comfort Inn South, at 8031 Old Oregon Inlet Road in Nags Head. All rooms have microwave, refrigerator, and WiFi. Also included is a hot breakfast served in a private room, starting at 5:30. The cost is $66 for oceanfront rooms and $56 for street side, plus tax. This price is also good for days before and after the meeting. For reservations, call 252-441-6315. Be sure to mention the Carolina Bird Club to get this rate.

Our field trips will cover all the known hot spots, which are numerous in the area. These include two National Wildlife Refuges, Alligator River and Mattamuskeet. We'll go to Bodie Island, Oregon Inlet and Hatteras Point. Pea Island will be covered, including South Pond, which is off-limits except for this trip. Two more inland spots will be Roanoke Island and Palmetto Peartree Preserve. Brian Patteson will offer a pelagic trip. Some of the birds on his last CBC trip were Red Phalarope, Sooty and Manx Shearwaters, Atlantic Puffin, Great Skua, Razorbill, Dovekie, Little Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake and Common Murre. We'll have one or two Beginner's Bird Walks that will include instructions on birding techniques and optics.

The Friday night program will feature Susan Campbell, Research Affiliate with the NC Museum of Natural Sciences. She will use images and study skins in her discussion of hummingbirds found in the Carolinas. Susan has been banding hummers for over 15 years in conjunction with her long-term research.

Saturday evening starts with a dinner buffet and cash bar. The buffet is $25 and will offer a vegetarian option. Our speaker for the evening, Elaine Lubosch, acts as the Education Committee Chair for the Network for Endangered Sea Turtles (N.E.S.T.), established in 1995. This non-profit organization dedicates its efforts to the preservation and protection of habitat and migration routes of sea turtles and other marine animals on the north Banks from the Virginia border to Oregon Inlet. Elaine will discuss her organization's work and what the public can do to help save sea tur-

(Continued on page 4)

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Remembering Bob Sargent

Susan Campbell

An old friend of the Carolina Bird Club has passed away. Bob Sargent, self-taught researcher, educator and writer was unquestionably the country's expert on Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Above all, he was a kind and loving man who cared deeply for so many of the people he met through the years. I was fortunate enough to be considered one of his "daughters" as I kept in touch with him about the hummingbird happenings here in the Carolinas. Dwayne Martin, too, was like family to him once they became acquainted. Bob was a passionate conservationist, having spent mueh of his youth outdoors where he found a love for birds, especially later in life. He is survived by his beloved wife, Martha, and step-daughter Donna Carroll.

Bob became serious about hummingbirds in the late 1980s when he began banding them on his property in Trussville, Alabama. It was not long before he and Martha were travelling around their home state studying Ruby-throateds and investigating reports of wintering hummingbirds. In 1993 he formed the Hummer Bird Study Group with thousands of supporters nationwide and a network of cooperative banders/ researchers in the eastern U.S. and Canada. In those early years Bob was still working in the electrical field but was thrilled when he was able to retire and launch full-time into bird research in 2001.

He actually loved all birds. Bob was involved with local Christmas Bird Counts, led birding trips, and kept notes on the birds that showed up at his feeders and water features. But the biggest of his projects was his time spent at Fort Morgan. Bob and his team banded countless migrants both spring and fall at Fort Morgan Historical Site on the Alabama coast. Hundreds of visitors would literally flock to the site in order to learn from Bob, Martha, and the crew and—if very lucky—to release one of their study subjects. Bob opened the eyes of people young and old to the wonders of the bird world. There were those who made repeat visits and eventually joined as assistants or even trained and went on to become banders themselves.

In the vein of always wanting to learn more about birds, Bob and Martha began banding Saw-whet Owls on their own property in central Alabama over the last few years. Dozens of birds were netted during their night time sessions during the winter months. He seemed just as excited about their owl recaptures as he was about any of the hummingbirds he worked with.

It was North Carolina's second Green Violetear that first brought Bob and Martha to our area. Bob banded that magnificent hummingbird in Burnsville in September of 1995. It was a first for him and an accomplishment that he remained quite proud of. He later banded the first Anna's in North Carolina in Deeember of 1998 at the Charlotte home of CBC member Judy Walker. Bob investigated numerous Rufous and coastal Ruby-throateds during the winter months. There were several dozen lucky hosts in the Triad, Triangle, Charlotte, Hatteras Island, and Hampstead who were fortunate enough to have him pay a visit to trap "their" birds.

One of our club members for whom his friendship was so special was Judy Webb. She and her husband Charles were fortunate enough to have Bob travel up to band their immature Calliope in Greer, SC. The bird was the first record for South Carolina. During his visit, and then in the ensuing months that she eommunicated with him while the hummer was with them, he had a profound effeet on Judy. He literally opened her eyes to the world of hummingbirds and created a passion in her for these tiny birds. To quote her:

Bob and Martha Sargent

Remembering Bob Sargent

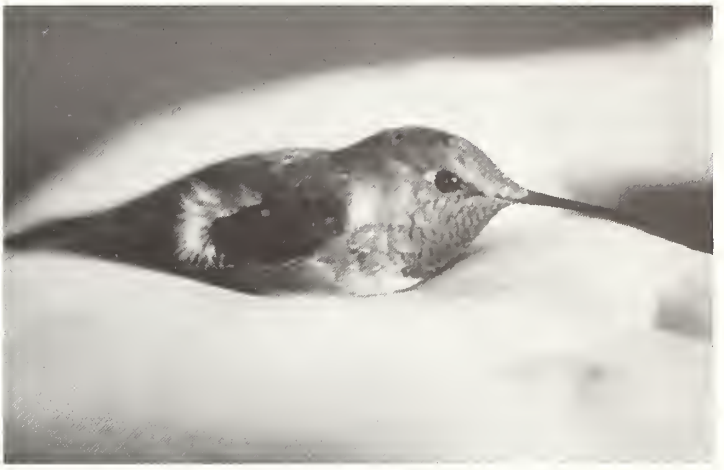
Susan Campbell

"There is not a day that passes that I do not have some reason to say thank you to him, for some awesome sight or sound or mystery that would have [been] missed had our paths not crossed. It is really unbelievable. Maybe that was his best gift to so many people - he helped us see."

Bob had a special way of communicating with so many people. He touched all of us whether it was a chance meeting or days of field work. His enthusiasm for birds was definitely infectious.

In addition to the banding trips made to the Carolinas in the late 1990's the Sargents were featured speakers at the 1999 Winter CBC meeting. It was after that meeting that they asked me if I would be interested in being trained to band hummingbirds. They realized during that year, when they made multiple trips north to the Tarheel State, that they needed some local help. And given my prior work with birds as well as my connection to the NC Museum of Natural Sciences, they hoped that I might join "their cause." Of course I jumped at the chance! Luckily, NCMNS, as it turned out, had some discretionary funds at the time. John Gerwin (then Collections Manager - and my boss) was a big fan of the Sargents and their hummingbird work in the Southeast. Their endeavors began not long after John had wrapped up hummingbird research of his own while in graduate school in Louisiana. So he heartily encouraged me to get the training I needed to begin a project of my own here in the Carolinas. I rounded up all the necessary equipment and scheduled a week to train with the Sargents - and the rest, as they say, is history. My tutelage with Bob, as it turns out, was almost fifteen years ago to the day of his death.

As I head off to this, the nineteenth annual Wings Over Water, I will be thinking about my mentor and friend a lot. While I am banding hummingbirds and leading bird trips along the coast, many of my colleagues will be gathering down in Trussville to remember Bob's life. I know he will forgive my absence. He and Martha travelled to Buxton during the early years of the festival to be a part of it. His banding sessions and presentations were a hit, as they were wherever he went. But this year I will be working harder than ever to spread the gospel of hummingbirds myself—and hope to continue to make Bob proud.



"After Hatch Year" Rufous Hummingbird banded by Bob Sargent in Durham, NC in 1998

Note: Sadly, the Hummer Bird Study Group, which Bob founded, will dissolve with his passing. However, for those looking to continue support of hummingbird research, please consider the non-profit Friends of the Museum Hummer Fund (P.O. Box 26928 Raleigh, NC 27611-6928). This fund was created to assist with expenses associated with Susan's work here in the Carolinas.

Molting Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Frisco, NC January 1999

Welcome New Members!

The Carolina Bird Club warmly welcomes the following new members:

Craig & Shelley Watson
Mount Pleasant, SC

Mary McRee
Naylor, GA

Debra Halborn
Aiken, SC

Carol & Donald Palmer
Hendersonville, NC

Reagan Lunn
Chapel Hill, NC

Donna & Norm Howard
Ridgeway, SC

Ken Carman
Hollywood, SC

Maureen Pratt
Tryon, NC

Jim Oldham
New Bern, NC

Sally Jordan
Fairmont, NC

Sara Schweitzer
New Bern, NC

George Evans
Boone, NC

Ian Ruppenthal
Davidson, NC

Leigh Anne Carter
Charlotte, NC

Martha Worthy
Hilton Head Island, SC

Sarah Goodnight & Greg Perry
Oriental, NC

Houck Medford
Winston-Salem, NC

Hugh Stevens
Raleigh, NC

Thomas Cook
Raleigh, NC

Alice Crisp
Columbus, NC

Peggy Bridges & Ruth Anderson
Brevard, NC

Bob & Charlene King
Summerville, SC

H. Douglas Pratt

Do you know someone with an interest in birds or birding? Are they a member of the Carolina Bird Club? If not, we would love to have them join! Simply go to the Club's website and click on "Join the CBC" in the upper left. Annual memberships start at only $15 and include subscriptions to both The Chat and the CBC Newsletter!

CBC Winter Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

tles. For more information on N.E.S.T., see http://www.nestonline.org/AboutNEST.htm.

For non-birding partners, there are many interesting places to visit. Aside from the beautiful beach as far as you can see, the Wright Brothers National Memorial in nearby Kill Devil Hills and historic Manteo, with the Elizabethan Gardens, are just a short drive away. Three lighthouses, Currituck Beach, Bodie Island and Cape Hatteras, are each less than an hour away. Manteo also features a reproduction of the lesser-known Roanoke Marshes Lighthouse.

Winter on the Outer Banks is always speeial. Bring warm clothes, a sense of adventure and your life list. We hope to see you there.

Please note: South Pond on Pea Island, other than viewed from the NC12 shoulder, is off-limits to casual birding. We will have access to restricted areas for this meeting, but only for participants on specified trips. Please do not enter posted areas at South Pond or any other site unless you possess specific, implieit permission. Trespassers may be charged and fined.

The Newsletter and The Chat are online on the CBC website. The most recent editions of each are only accessible to CBC members. To access the "members only" content, you must first ereate a ogin and password. This can be done at http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/register.html.

Once you have your login and password established, you can login at https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/login.html.

CBC Winter Meeting Schedule

Friday, January 30

Morning - Half-Day Trips (all times a.m.)

Trip 1 – Palmetto Peartree Preserve and Alligator River NWR – 6:45
Trip 2 – Pea Island NWR / North and South Ponds – 7:00
Trip 3 – Pea Island NWR / Bodie Island and Oregon Inlet – 7:15
Trip 4 – Pine Island Sanctuary and Points North – 7:30
Trip 5 – Roanoke Island - 7:30
Trip 6 – Ocean Watching – 7:30
Trip 7 – Beginner's Birding – 7:30

Afternoon - Half-Day Trips (all times p.m.)

Trip 8 – Palmetto Peartree Preserve and Alligator River NWR – 1:00
Trip 9 – Pea Island NWR / North and South Ponds – 1:00
Trip 10 – Pea Island NWR / Bodie Island and Oregon Inlet – 1:00
Trip 11 – Pine Island Sanctuary and Points North – 1:15
Trip 12 – Roanoke Island – 1:15
Trip 13 – Ocean Watching – 1:15

All Day Trips (all times a.m.)

Trip 14 – Pelagic aboard Stormy Petrel II
If depart from Hatteras – 6:00
If depart from Oregon Inlet - 6:30
Trip 15 – Mattamuskeet NWR – 6:45
Trip 16 – Hatteras Point, Hatteras Island & Pea Island – 6:45
Trip 17 – Pocosin Lakes NWR - 7:00

Saturday, January 31

Morning - Half-Day Trips (all times a.m.)

Trip 18 – Palmetto Peartree Preserve and Alligator River NWR – 6:45
Trip 19 - Pea Island NWR / North and South Ponds – 7:00
Trip 20 – Pea Island NWR / Bodie Island and Oregon Inlet – 7:15
Trip 21 – Pine Island Sanctuary and Points North – 7:30
Trip 22 – Roanoke Island – 7:30
Trip 23 – Hummingbird Banding – 7:30
Trip 24 – Beginner's Birding – 7:30
Trip 25 – Young Birder's Rarity Chase – 7:30

Afternoon - Half-Day Trips (all times p.m.)

Trip 26 – Palmetto Peartree Preserve and Alligator River NWR – 1:00
Trip 27 – Pea Island NWR / North and South Ponds – 1:00
Trip 28 – Pea Island NWR / Bodie Island and Oregon Inlet – 1:00
Trip 29 – Pine Island Sanctuary and Points North – 1:15
Trip 30 – Roanoke Island – 1:15
Trip 31 – Ocean Watching – 1:15

All Day Trips (all times a.m.)

Trip 32 – Mattamuskeet NWR – 6:45
Trip 33 – Hatteras Point, Hatteras Island & Pea Island – 6:45
Trip 34 - Pocosin Lakes NWR – 7:00

Did you know that the Outer Banks of North Carolina are home to some of the tallest and most impressive lighthouses on North America's east coast? The 162 foot tall Currituck Beach Lighthouse, lit in 1875; 165 foot tall Bodie Island Lighthouse, lit in 1872; and 210 foot tall Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, lit in 1870; were all built using the same general plans, and in some cases by the same work crews. To distinguish the similar-looking towers, each was provided a unique paint scheme, except for Currituck, which was left in natural brick.

Winter Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

Trips 1, 8, 18, & 26 - Palmetto Peartree Preserve and Alligator River NWR
Plan for about a one-hour drive to "P3" as it is known by the locals. We will look among the seven species of woodpeckers present for the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker. During our search we should see a good assortment of woodland and edge species including kinglets, warblers, nuthatches, and sparrows. Red-shouldered Hawk is likely, and Barred Owl and Bald Eagle are real possibilities. Learn more about P3 by visiting www.palmettopeartree.org. After birding P3, the group will drive through Alligator River NWR searching primarily for raptors and sparrows, although many species will be possible, including waterfowl and shorebirds. This refuge may be the best place in the state to find Ash-throated Flycatcher. Rough-legged and Swainson's Hawks have wintered here in the recent past. Black Bears, Bobcats and Red Wolves are also a possibility. Short-eared Owls are very possible over the fields just before dusk (although the afternoon trips will wrap up before darkness falls.)

Note: there are lots of birds but few restrooms in this part of the world. Restrooms can be found at the Visitor's Center on Roanoke Island, service station at the western end of Alligator River bridge, and porta-johns at the entrance to Milltail Rd in Alligator River NWR)

Trips 2, 9, 19, & 27 - Pea Island NWR, North and South Ponds
Drive down to the entrance area of South Pond, parking carefully along the roadside. If you get there in advance of the guide, wait by the road. We will scan flocks of common birds hoping for such species as Eurasian Wigeon, American Avocet, Marbled Godwit, American Bittern, and American White Pelican. In the grassy strips and in the shrub edges along the way we should find sparrows and warblers. After leaving South Pond we will visit nearby North Pond to continue our search. This area has seen quite a few rarities over the years, including Glaucous Gull, California Gull, Hudsonian Godwit, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Cave Swallow, and Brewer's Blackbird, just to name a few. Anything is a possibility at Pea Island! We'll scope the ocean across from the Visitor's Center for sea birds. Last time, a Sora was an easy find under the feeders. If time permits, we may stop by Oregon Inlet or Bodie Island on the trip back. A spotting scope comes in quite handy in these areas. Even in January, mosquito protection may be advisable. *South Pond is off-limits except while on approved field trips.*

Trips 3, 10, 20, & 28 - Pea Island NWR, Bodie Island and Oregon Inlet
At the north end of Pea Island are Oregon Inlet and the Bonner Bridge. We'll check the inlet out to the rock groin, looking for species that may include Great Cormorant, Common Eider, Harlequin Duck, Purple Sandpiper, Piping Plover, Glaucous Gull, "Ipswich" Sparrow, Razorbill and many more. This is "hallowed ground" to birders and many rarities have shown up here over the years. On the north side of the bridge is the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center, where we will scope the inlet for Long-tailed Duck and other diving ducks. Common Eiders and Brant have been seen here as well. We'll continue on to Bodie Lighthouse Pond where we will scope for waterfowl, shorebirds, and waders from the new observation platform. Eurasian Wigeon and Cinnamon Teal have been seen here. The boardwalk that cuts through the marsh is good for rails and Marsh Wrens.

Trips 4, 11, 21 & 29 - Pine Island Audubon Sanctuary and Points North
This trip will afford CBC members an introduction to Audubon's 2,600-acre site on the Currituck Sound. We will explore this former hunting mecca for waterfowl, shorebirds, marsh birds and raptors—Bald Eagle is a distinct possibility. Afterwards, we'll head north and bird around the Currituck Beach Lighthouse and N.C. Center for Wildlife Education. A boardwalk will take us to the edge of Currituck Sound where we will scan for waders, shorebirds, terns and waterfowl. King Rails and other marsh birds are a possibility. The forest edge can be good for overwintering passerines as well. Time permitting, we may scan the nearby ocean for scoters, loons and grebes. If you have not ever birded this area of the Outer Banks, this field trip will provide an experience you will be able to use in your future trips to the Banks.

Winter Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

Trips 5, 12, 22, & 30 - Roanoke Island
We'll begin at the north end of the island where we will search the woodland edges for winter species such as Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-headed Vireo, Brown Creeper, White-throated Sparrow, and hope to turn up over-wintering warblers. Ovenbird, Northern Parula, Black-and-white, Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green Warblers have all been seen in recent winters, as have Baltimore Oriole, Painted Bunting, and Western Kingbird! Wintering Ruby-throated Hummingbirds should be present as well. After that, we will visit the Roanoke Marshes Game Lands in search of saltmarsh species such as Marsh Wren, Seaside Sparrow, and Clapper and Virginia Rails. The freshwater impoundment should hold a few shorebirds and waterfowl for us to view, along with Belted Kingfisher and a raptor or two. Then we will stop by the harbor in Wanchese Village at the south end of the island and scan the surrounding sound and marina for gulls, loons, grebes, and diving ducks. Two Glaucous Gulls were seen there last winter. Wear comfortable shoes because you are going to cover a lot of ground on this field trip.

Trips 6, 13, & 31 - Nags Head Ocean Watch
A scope is essential for this trip to scan the Atlantic for the winter birds that feast on the bounty of the ocean. If you don't have a scope, there should be plenty in the group. Your leader will select some premium locations from which to watch the action, including Jennette's Pier. Loons, grebes, scoters and other sea ducks as well as gulls, gannets and many more are on the menu. There is a modest fee to walk out on Jeanette's Pier.

Trip 7, 24 - Beginner's Birding
This trip is designed for those new to birding, but anyone can come along! Birding techniques will be discussed including how to view a bird, what type of diagnostic marks to look for, how to "pish", the importance of habitat, how to act, and even what to wear. The leader will explain what to look for in binoculars, scopes, and field guides. The destination will be decided by the leader, who will also answer any participant questions.

Trip 14 - Pelagic Trip
Departure is from Hatteras or Oregon Inlet depending on conditions. Time and departure location will be determined the week of the meeting. Captain Brian Patteson's trips aboard the *Stormy Petrel II* are very popular with birders from all over. It's a different world out there with very different and special birds. The trip is offered to a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 20 CBC members. The back-up date for this trip is Saturday, January 31. In the event of a cancellation both days due to weather, participants will receive a full refund. Bring lunch and warm clothing, including waterproof outer layers. It's colder on the ocean than on land, so come prepared. If you're prone to seasickness, take whatever precaution you need. Please send your check ($165 per person, payable to Brian Patteson, Inc.) to P.O. Box 772, Hatteras, NC 27943. Give him your contact information as well—email and phone numbers. Go to www.patteson.com for more information.

Trips 15 & 32- Mattamuskeet NWR
A birder's paradise, Mattamuskeet can be incredible. One of the best spots in the state for Golden Eagle, we will bird the Lake Landing area for Tundra Swans and other waterfowl, shorebirds and waders, sorting through the more common species and hoping for something rare, such as Cackling Goose, Ross's Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, or "Common" Teal. American White Pelicans have been seen here several times in recent winters. There is a good chance we will be allowed access to some of the off-limit areas. We will also bird along the causeway, famous for its overwintering passerines. In just the past few winters the causeway has hosted at least 13 species of warblers, including Ovenbird, Black-throated Blue, Yellow and Nashville. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Baltimore Orioles are to be expected, and recently an Ash-throated Flycatcher and Bell's Vireo turned up. A Black-headed Gull is present most years, too, usually seen near one of the culverts that pass under Highway 94. Side trips on the way back to the coast may include Stumpy Point Bay and Alligator River NWR.

Winter Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

Trips 16 & 33 - Hatteras Point, Hatteras Island, Pea Island
The guide will rendezvous with the CBC party at the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse parking lot. We will cover the Point Campground, the Salt Pond and the beach, sorting through the gull flocks in search of Thayer's, Iceland, Glaucous and California Gulls. Lesser Black-backed Gulls should be common. Peregrine Falcon is often seen as well. We will scan the ocean for loons, grebes, scoters and other water birds, hoping for alcids or other rarities. Common Eider, Black-headed and Little Gulls, and Eared Grebe are also possibilities. Last time we had great looks at Iceland Gull, Dovekie, and Razorbill. The Salt Pond usually hosts good populations of birds. Snow Buntings and Horned Larks could show up, and a Sprague's Pipit was seen here once, not far from the Salt Pond. Your leader will plan some side trips on the way back depending on what has been seen that morning at points north.

Please note: We will be walking to Hatteras Point, about two miles round trip. Come prepared for walking on both hard-packed and deep, soft sand.

Trips 17 & 34 - Pocosin Lakes NWR
Pocosin Lakes is famous for huge flocks of wintering Snow Geese. We will search through them for Cackling, Ross's, and Greater White-fronted Geese. Red-winged Blackbird flocks can number in the tens of thousands, a spectacle in itself. We will look through them with hopes of spotting a Yellow-headed Blackbird. Overhead, we'll keep an eye out for Golden Eagles—this is one of the most reliable spots in the state for these awesome birds. Other possibilities include other waterfowl and farm field and edge species, such as sparrows, pipits and Horned Larks. There is a lot of territory to cover on this trip with potential side trips on the way back.

Trip 23 – Hummingbird Banding
After Friday night's program on hummers, Susan Campbell will set up a banding station at the Visitor's Center at Mattamuskeet NWR. Participants will be able to help in the banding of these colorful darters. Ruby-throated are to be expected, but there is always a chance of western species, such as Rufous, Calliope, Allen's or Black-chinned. This will be a great opportunity to see them up close and ask questions.

Trip 24 – Young Birder's Rarity Chase
This trip is for the young birders of the club, but anyone is welcome to come along. We will visit the hot spots and look for the rare or unusual birds that were found on Friday. The destinations will be decided that morning.

Winter Meeting Planning Notes

The times listed in the schedule are when the cars are lined up in the parking lot and leaving. Please be there at least 10 minutes early and identify yourself to the leader. If you decide not to go on a trip, either scratch through your name beforehand on the supplied lists, or show up at the meeting place and tell someone.

All trips depart from hotel in the parking lot. Look for the placard with your trip number. There will be a sheet with all directions for your trips e-mailed to you in advance. Please bring it on each trip as caravans sometimes break down, and, if so, you'll still be able to get to the trip site. Get the leader's cell number before you leave, just in case.

Food for purchase during field trips may be somewhat limited. Accordingly, plan to take snacks and beverages with you, and be sure to pack a lunch for the all-day trips.

We try to take as few vehicles as possible on field trips in order to save fuel, make caravanning easier, and to make better use of the limited parking that exists at some stops. Please plan on carpooling, and if you would like to drive and have room for new or old friends, please let your trip leader know when you arrive for your outing.

Membership Directory

The Carolina Bird Club plans to publish an online membership directory beginning in 2015. In the past, we have published a paper directory from time to time, but have not done so since 2005. The online directory will have all the benefits of a paper directory, plus the benefit of always being up-to-date, and of course the benefit of being much less expensive to publish. The directory will be accessible only to club members, not to the public.

The information that is displayed in a directory entry can include name, city, state, zip code (but not street address), email address, phone number, and member type (individual, family, life, etc.), and you will be able to search for matches with any of these, for example you can search for members who have a given zip code. You can view what your own directory entry will look like by going to: https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/profile/.

We recognize that some members may prefer not to share their contact information with other members. For this reason we are providing a way for you to opt out of the directory, and this is why we are announcing the rollout several months in advance, so that you have plenty of time to opt out if you choose to do so. If you prefer to exclude some or all of your contact information from the online directory, you can choose to do so at any time by going to https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/profile/ and selecting the types of information that you want excluded. You can choose not to appear in the directory at all, or to appear with items of your choice excluded. The defaults if you make no choices are that your name, city, and membership type are displayed, and your email address and phone number are private (not displayed).

Information sharing is reciprocal; you can only see the types of information about other members that you allow to be displayed for yourself. For example, until you change your own preferences to allow your email address to be displayed, you will not be able to see email addresses of any other members, whether they have chosen to share their email address or not.

We hope that you find this new feature helpful in communicating with Club members and a "green" way to reduce the amount of paper used in publishing member directories!

Proposed By-Law Change

The CBC Membership will be asked to approve the following language for a proposed By-Law Amendment to add a free membership category for youth age 18 and younger. The vote will take place during the January 2015 winter meeting in Nags Head.

The intent of the change is to foster the interest of birds and bird-related conservation in younger persons by affording the benefits of membership without the cost of an annual dues payment, which may be significant to a young person. This change dovetails with the support provided by the Club to the Carolina Young Birders Club. The proposed new membership category does not entitle the member to voting rights and does not provide paper copies of The Chat or The Newsletter.

Membership categories are governed by Article II of the Club's by-laws. Accordingly, the proposal to the membership is that the existing verbiage would be amended to delete the reference to "dues-bearing" in Article II, Paragraph 2 and to add a new membership category.

The proposed language follows:

Article II:
2. Memberships are available in the following categories:

> 5. A free youth membership shall be available for persons 18 years of age or younger. Such members will only receive electronic versions of The Newsletter, The Chat, and any other publications that the club may supply to dues-paying members.

CBC Bonus Trip To The Texas Gulf Coast And Rio Grande Valley

The CBC is pleased to announce a bonus trip to Texas February 7-15, 2015. Texas is where the western species start, and winter is the best time to visit, with mild temperatures, little rain and great birds. We'll drive south to the Rio Grande Valley, then west to Laredo, following the river. If you have never birded west of the Mississippi River, you can expect to come home with 50+ lifers. Rarities are always possible. Last year, an Amazon Kingfisher showed up just north of Brownsville and was seen by hundreds, including our group.

The trip starts in San Antonio on Saturday with the afternoon at Aransas NWR and Goose Island State Park (Crested Caracaras and White-tailed Hawk). Sunday finds us on a boat tour to see Whooping Cranes (with as many as 20 possible) as well as ducks and shorebirds, including Long-billed Curlew. After birding several spots around Corpus Christi, we'll start working our way south.

Monday morning we'll drive along fields looking for Snow, Ross's and Greater White-fronted Geese and Sandhill Cranes. Sarita Rest Stop should bring our first views of Green Jay as well as Brewer's Blackbird, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, and possibly Lesser Goldfinch. A little farther south are fields where Mountain Plovers can be found. Laguna Atascosa NWR is our next stop. We'll look for Aplomado Falcon, drive the Nature Loop, and check out Lake Atascosa. Then we go to South Padre Island in the late afternoon. We'll finish the day at Oliviera Park in Brownsville for Red-crowned Parrot and Green Parakeet, both ABA-countable. There are dozens and the raucous noise alone is a treat.

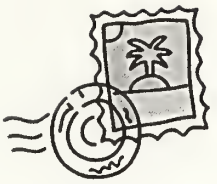
The next morning we'll start at Sabal Palm Audubon Sanctuary for Green Kingfisher, Least Grebe, Buff-bellied Hummingbird, White-tipped Dove, Clay-colored Thrush and Great Kiskadee. We will also visit Resaca de la Palmas State Park and Los Ebanos Preserve.

Birding Santa Ana NWR will start our fourth morning. We'll spend some time on the Hawk Tower, hoping for a Hook-billed Kite. Plain Chachalaca, Altimira Oriole, and Long-billed Thrasher are targets here. Our next stop is Estero Llano Grande State Park, where roosting Common Pauraque are found in most years. Fulvous and Black-bellied Whistling-Duck are likely. Visits to Frontera Audubon Thicket and Edinburgh Wetlands finish the day.

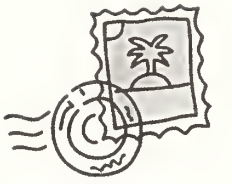
On Thursday, we'll bird Bentsen-Rio Grande State Park in the morning. Anzalduas County Park, a great spot for Ringed Kingfisher and Vermilion Flycatcher, is next. Last year, a Zone-tailed Hawk flew right over our heads! Nesting Monk Parakeets can be found near Hidalgo Pumphouse. We'll finish the day at Chihuahua Woods Preserve, a Nature Conservancy property. Continuing west, we'll visit Roma Bluffs, Salineno, and Chapeno. We're getting into Audubon Oriole territory and a slim chance for Brown Jay or countable Muscovy Duck. Falcon State Park is desert scrub, good for Pyrrhuloxia. Our last day will be spent in Laredo, where our goal will be White-collared Seedeater. We'll drive back to San Antonio in the afternoon for flights home on Sunday.

The price for the trip is $1390 for double occupancy and $1780 for single. This includes eight nights lodging, with breakfast, ground transportation, entry fees, crane boat tour and guided birding each day. You pay airfare, lunches, dinners and any personal spending. **The trip is limited to seven participants.** A deposit of $400, due by November 25th, will hold your spot, with the balance due by December 15th. If you must cancel, a full refund will be given until December 24th. Cancellations after the 24th allow for a refund only if someone is found to take your place.

The leader for the trip is Ron Clark. This will be his sixth visit to the area, four of which were taking groups. If you have any questions, or want to reserve a spot, contact him at: waxwing@bellsouth.net. You can also get a species list from last year's trip plus a link to photos.



Save a Stamp!
Consider using our Online Registration at www.carolinabirdclub.org!



CBC Nags Head Meeting Registration Form
January 30-31, 2015

Name(s) _____

Address _____City_____State_____ Zip_____

Day Phone (_____) _____—_____ Evening phone (_____)_____—_____

Email _____

Meeting Registration (Member) ____ x $25 = $ _____

Meeting Registration (Non-member) ____ x $30 = $_____

Saturday Buffet ____ x $25 = $_____

Field Trip Sign-Up	A.M. 1st/2nd Choice	P.M. 1st/2nd Choice	All Day 1st/2nd Choice
Friday	/	/	/
Saturday	/	/	/

To pre-register for field trips, place the trip number(s) in the boxes above.

Total Enclosed = $_____

Club policy requires all field trip participants to comply with the field trip leader's assessment and requests concerning the physical ability of each participant to make or complete the trip. Meeting registration at the door costs $35.

I release and discharge (and will not make a claim against) Carolina Bird Club for injury, death, or property damage arising from my participation at this meeting and/or Club field trips. This release of liability is entered into on behalf of all members of my family, including all minors accompanying me. I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of any such minors and that I am over 18 years of age.

Signature_____Date_____Signature_____Date_____

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club and send to:
CBC, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374

Before sending in this form, check the website to see if any of your trips are full, rescheduled, or cancelled. www.carolinabirdclub.org

Cancellations for the meeting will be refunded if received by Friday, January 23, 2015.

Cancel by contacting the Headquarters Secretary (hq@carolinabirdclub.org). If you need to cancel after the refund cutoff date, please notify the Headquarters Secretary so we can give your field trip space to someone on the waiting list.

☐ **Check here for the vegetarian option at the Saturday evening buffet.**

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Upcoming CBC Meetings

Spring 2015 - Clemson, SC
Fall 2015 - Hickory, NC

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Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of December, February, April, June, August, and October.
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CBC Website: www.carolinabirdclub.org

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